

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



# Asteroid Redirect Mission

**Michele Gates**

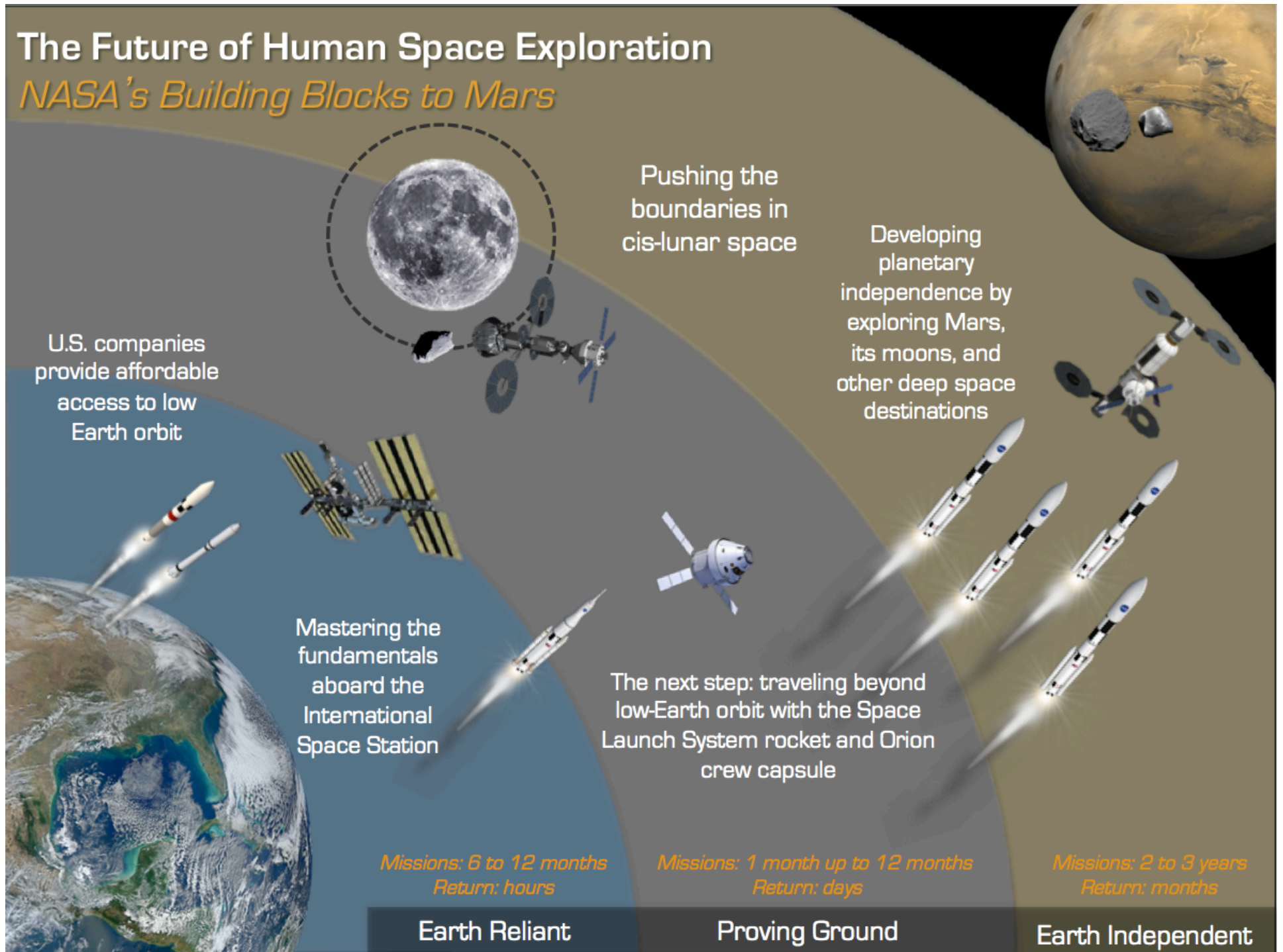
Senior Technical Advisor,  
Human Exploration and Operations





# The Future of Human Space Exploration

## *NASA's Building Blocks to Mars*



# Asteroid Redirect Mission



## Identify



### **Asteroid Identification:**

Ground and space based  
near Earth asteroid (NEA)  
target detection,  
characterization  
and selection

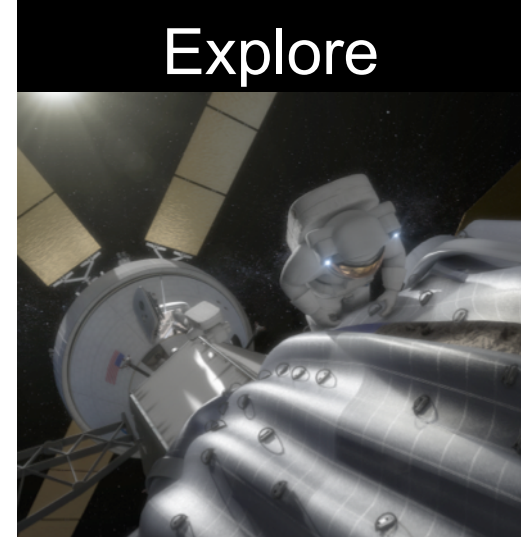
## Redirect



### **Asteroid Redirect Robotic Mission:**

High power solar  
electric propulsion  
(SEP) based robotic  
asteroid redirect to  
lunar distant  
retrograde orbit

## Explore



### **Asteroid Redirect Crewed Mission:**

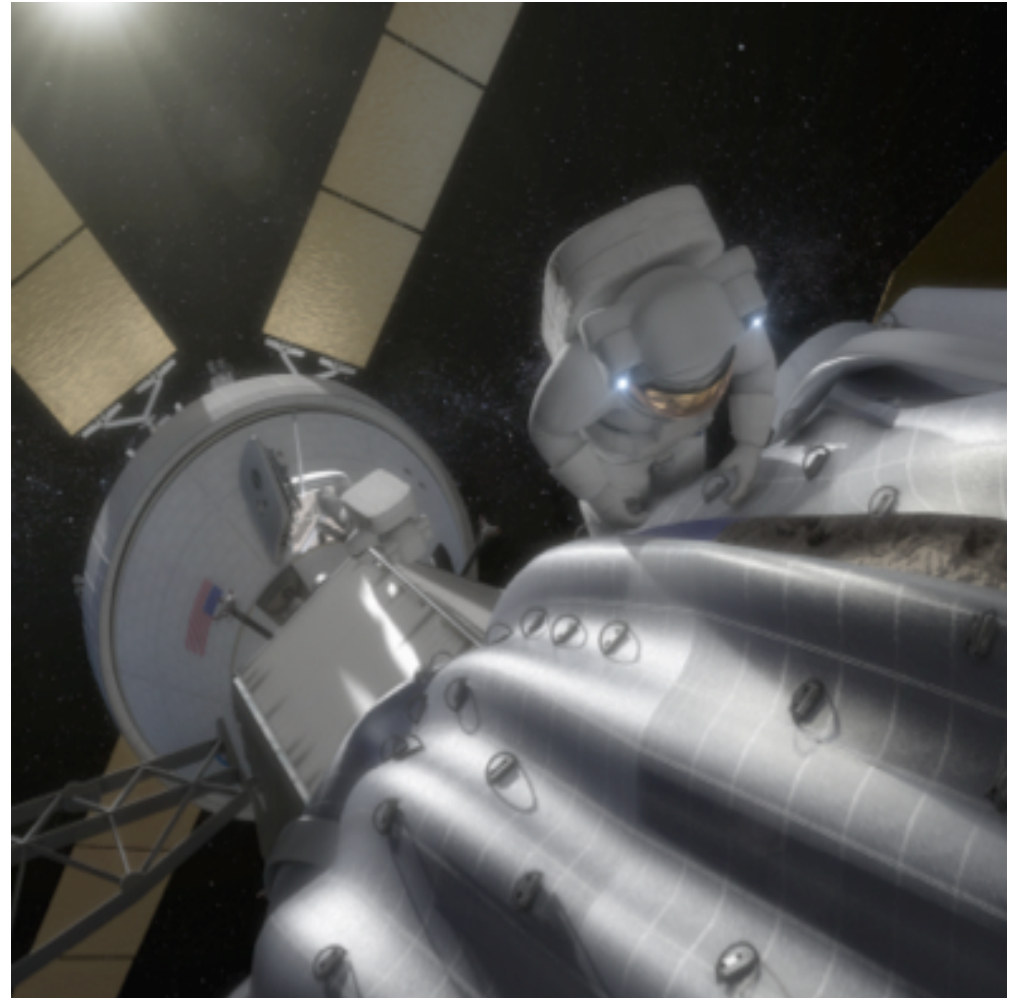
Orion and Space  
Launch System  
based crewed  
rendezvous and  
sampling mission to  
the relocated asteroid

# Asteroid Redirect Mission

## Builds on Investments Already Being Made by NASA



- **ARM integrates several building blocks of human space exploration to initiate deep space exploration**
  - ISS experience
  - Orion and SLS
  - SEP and other technologies
- **Contributes significantly to the extension of the human exploration of space beyond LEO in an affordable and sustainable way**
  - Operate 1000 times farther than LEO for the first time in 4 decades.
  - Longer duration beyond LEO crewed mission than ever





# Near Earth Object Identification – Key Assets



## Catalina Sky Survey



Utilize Radar (Goldstone and Arecibo) increased time for NEO observations.



## NASA InfraRed Telescope Facility (IRTF)

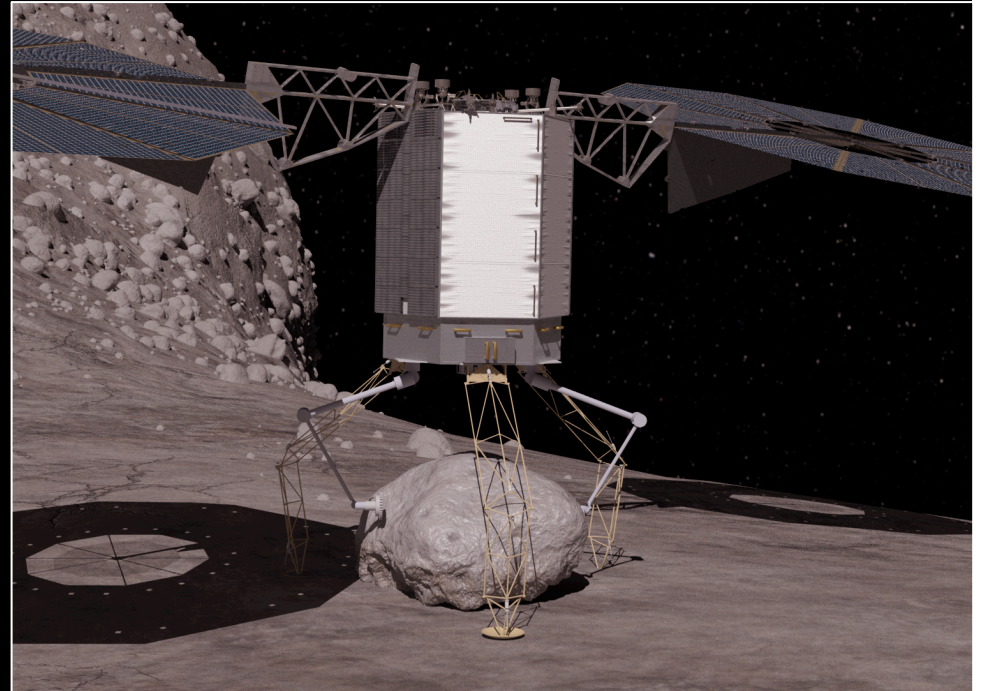
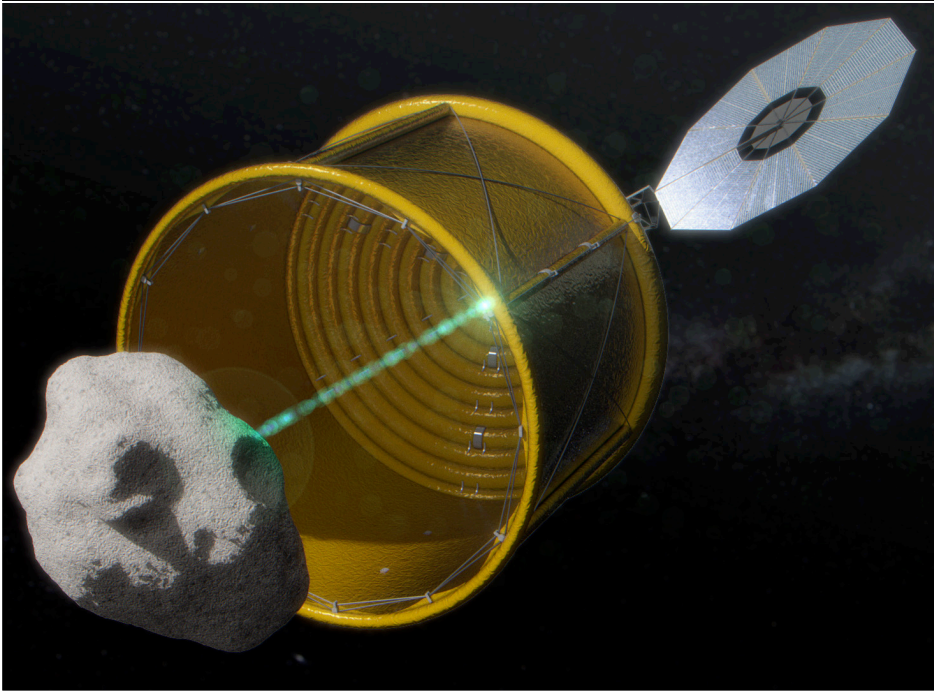
- Increase On-call for Rapid Response.
- Improve Instrumentation for Spectroscopy and Thermal Signatures.



**NEOWISE reactivated and dedicated to NEO Search & Characterization**



# Asteroid Redirect Mission: Two Robotic Capture Options





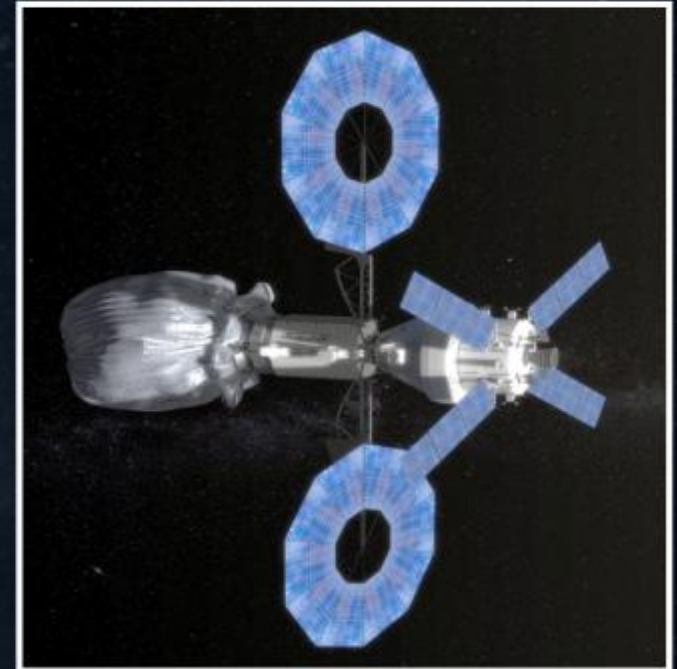
# Asteroid Redirect Crewed Mission Overview



**Deliver crew  
on SLS/Orion**



**Orion Docks to Robotic Spacecraft**



**EVA from Orion to retrieve asteroid samples**



**Return crew safely to Earth with  
asteroid samples in Orion**



# Asteroid Redirect Mission Provides Capabilities For Deep Space/Mars Missions

## In-space Power and Propulsion :

- High Efficiency Solar Arrays and SEP advance state of art toward capability required for Mars
- Robotic ARM mission 40kW vehicle components prepare for Mars cargo delivery architectures
- Power enhancements feed forward to Deep Space Habitats and Transit Vehicles

High Efficiency  
Large Solar Arrays

Solar  
Electric  
Propulsion  
(SEP)

Exploration  
EVA  
Capabilities

## EVA:

- Build capability for future exploration through Primary Life Support System Design which accommodates Mars
- Test sample collection and containment techniques including planetary protection
- Follow-on missions in DRO can provide more capable exploration suit and tools

## Crew Transportation and Operations:

- Rendezvous Sensors and Docking Systems provide a multi-mission capability needed for Deep Space and Mars
- Asteroid Initiative in cis-lunar space is a proving ground for Deep Space operations, trajectory, and navigation.

Deep Space  
Rendezvous  
Sensors & Docking  
Capabilities